

Appl. No. 10/041,845
Amdt. dated July 16, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 20, 2003

PATENT

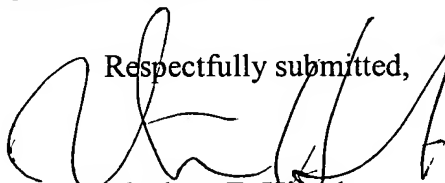
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants hereby elect with traverse the claims of Group I (claims 1-10, 12-21 and 31-35).

According to the MPEP, where claims can be examined together without undue burden, the Examiner must examine the claims on the merits even though they are directed to independent and distinct inventions. *See*, the MPEP at 803.01. In establishing that an "undue burden" would exist for co-examination of claims, the Examiner must show that examination of the claims would involve substantially different prior art searches, making the co-examination burdensome. Applicants respectfully submit that examination of the claims in Groups I-II would not create an undue burden and respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement in this case.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-273-7554.

Respectfully submitted,



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